on the request of Chittaranjan Park Residents during June, 1987 for construction of a dispensary. A suitable site has been located in C.R. Park which belongs to MCD and the land use of the site is 'primary school'. Action for setting up of dispensary on the land can be taken only after the land use is changed from 'primary school' to 'dispensary' and after MCD places the land at the disposal of the Govt. of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of coking coal by the Steel Plants

2206. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector and private sector steel plants import around 3 million tonnes of coking coal annually, valued at over Rs. 187/- crores, plus additional Rs. 66 crores as sea freight for transporting the same to India;

(b) what is the quantity of coal, the amount of foreign exchange involved and the names of countries, from where the coking coal is being imported quantity-wise;

(c) whether these imports for SAIL are purchased on annual, spot tender basis only;

(d) whether Government have studied the Japanese system of purchase/import of 63 million tonnes of coking coal annually for Japanese Steel Plants, whereby they do not buy on yearly spot purchase but insist on a 2% discount for finalising long-term contracts;

(e) whether India can save foreign exchange of over Rs. 187/- crores annually by entering into long-term supply arrangements, by insisting on a mere 1% discount for long-term supplies;

(f) whether SAIL and private steel plants have investigated the benefits of import/purchase of coking coal on long-term contracts, as against the current practice of annual spot purchase; and

(g) if so, what is Government's decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) In 1987-88, SAIL and TISCO imported around 3 million tonnes of coking coal from Australia at a C & F value of about Rs. 176 crores, which includes a foreign exchange component of around Rs. 136 crores.

(c) SAIL imports coking coal according to its annual requirements based on the tendering system.

(d) Government do not have details of the system of coal purchases followed by Japanese Steel Mills.

(e) to (g) TISCO have not so far evinced any interest in entering into long term contracts with suppliers for import of coking coal. However, SAIL is exploring the possibility of procurement of coking coal through this mode of purchase also.

Upgradation of post of veterinary Assistant Surgeons

2207. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that posts of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in Delhi have been upgraded from Class III Non-Gazetted to Class II Gazetted, since 1977;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present incumbents have not been regularised so far in the upgraded posts as required under rules;

(c) whether it is also a fact that non-regularisation of these surgeons is having an adverse effect on their promotional avenues, study leave, foreign assignments, seniority and deputations, etc; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to safeguard their interests?